Effect of latest Newsprint Import policy

2171. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest newsprint import policy has posed a threat to the public sector newsprint mills in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for liberalisation of newsprint import policy;

(d) whether Government have received any representation from the public sector newsprint mills in the matter;

(e) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(f) the action taken to safeguard the interests of domestic newsprint industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The newsprint import policy for 1994-95 is yet to be formulated.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The matter is under consideration.

Utility of additional channels in Doordarshan

2172. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the gain of Doordarshan in opening more channels;

(b) whether it is a fact that programmes like news have been artificially lengthened earlier;

(c) whether it is a fact that programme time has been filled by importing second rate foreign serials, etc.; and

(d) what is the purpose of opening more channels in this situation;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The additional channels have provided Doordarshan the opportunity to provide wholesome programming, including in reginoal languages, to meet the diverse interests of the widest cross section of its viewers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecas of Election Appeals in Delhi by Doordarshan

2173. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some national political parties were allowed to telecast the election appeal during Delhi assembly election in November on Doordarshan;

(b) what is Government's policy regarding the supply of copy of the telecast i.e. video recording to the concerned poltiical parties.

(c) whether the Doordarshan has been approached by any political party requesting to make the video-recording available to the party; if so, the details; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government on the request made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme under which such telecasts are allowed does not require the recordings thereof to be provided to the political parties.

(c) No formal request has been received by Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi.

(d) Does not arise.